

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1892.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

THE APPROPRIATIONS TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

\$25,000 Recommended for Road Purposes—No Recommendation Made for the Fire Appropriation.

Messrs. Gilbert, Halfpenny, Rayner, and Hummel were the only Committee-men present at the regular meeting on Monday night. The recommendations for the ensuing year were fixed by the Committee.

The first item taken up was public grounds. Mr. Rayner, Chairman of that Committee, moved that \$500 be devoted to that purpose.

Mr. Gilbert thought that \$350 was sufficient. He said that the Committee ought to cut down wherever it was possible, in order to apply all the money to that purpose.

Mr. Rayner said \$500 might seem a large amount, but it took every dollar of it to keep the park in the condition that it has been kept in the past.

"The park," Mr. Rayner said, "is one of the most beautiful features of our town." Mr. Rayner differed with those who regard the park as only beneficial to residents adjoining it. He looked upon it as an advantage to the whole town, irrespective of locality. It was admired by visitors, the pride of our own town, and the envy of adjoining towns. The manual labor and the material required to keep it in fine order necessitated an expenditure of at least \$500. That sum was recommended.

Mr. Gilbert suggested that no appropriation be made for the maintenance of the poor. The revenue from license fees was \$4,500, and Mr. Voorhees had informed him that the revenue from that source was sufficient without additional appropriation. This item was passed over.

The Committee proposed to make a very large appropriation for road work. Mr. Rayner favored such a plan, but intimated that he was going to ask for an increased appropriation for the Fire Department, and his vote on the road appropriation would be for such an amount as would reserve sufficient for the Fire Department.

In order that Mr. Rayner might not be hampered in his vote on the road question, Mr. Halfpenny moved that the Fire Department recommendation take precedence of that of roads. Fire matters were then taken up.

Mr. Rayner said that the current expenses of the Department were about \$2,200. The appropriation last year was \$2,500, and there was on hand at the beginning of the year an unexpended balance of \$600, making a total of \$3,100 at the disposal of the Committee, all of which had been expended but a small balance. Nine hundred dollars of it had been used for new carriages, and about \$200 for current expenses.

Mr. Rayner said that next year the four indicators put in by the Gamewell Fire-Alarm Company at a cost of \$600 would have to be paid for, or ordered taken out of the fire-houses. The Gamewell Company put them in on condition that if the town did not wish to purchase them at the end of a year they would take them out. The town has now used them about fifteen months. There is also an electric clock to be paid for, costing \$50.

Mr. Rayner referred to the urgent request of the Chief Engineer that 2,000 feet of new hose be purchased. He said he had made a personal inspection of the hose and found that out of 3,750 feet in possession of the Department only 1,250 feet of hose was in good condition. He said the matter was a serious one, and if known to insurance companies would have a material effect on the insurance rates charged. Mr. Rayner said that while it would be impossible to purchase 2,000 feet, as requested by the Chief, he thought that at least 1,000 feet should be procured. The quality of hose used costs about eighty cents per foot. To purchase the indicators, clock, and new hose and meet the current expenses of the Department, he moved an appropriation of \$3,500.

Mr. Halfpenny opposed such a large appropriation for fire purposes. He said the firemen had been treated with great liberality in the past. Their every demand had been acceded to. A great many people were of the opinion that the Fire Department was costing too much. As to the proposed indicators, he was still of the same opinion that he held over a year ago when they were put in. He did not believe they were needed, and should be ordered out. They were not to be depended on, and the firemen made very little use of them. He thought that it would be better and cheaper to put a striking apparatus in Excelsior and Active hose-houses.

Mr. Halfpenny read from a list of current expenses of the Department, and mentioned number of items of expense that would not have to be incurred another year. He moved that

\$2,500 be recommended for fire purposes.

Mr. Gilbert opposed an increase of the fire appropriation. He said the Fire Department had never yet been put to the forced economy that other branches of public work had, and he thought it was time the firemen stood back and gave the Committee a chance to do all it could on roads. A vote was taken on the question, which resulted in a tie—Rayner and Hummel voting aye, and Gilbert and Halfpenny no.

Mr. Rayner said he was satisfied to let the matter go before the town meeting for the people to decide.

The question of road construction was next taken up. Mr. Gilbert said that a great deal of the stone road in the town was out of repair and would have to be attended to during the ensuing year or it would be entirely destroyed.

Mr. Rayner made a long address on the subject of a large appropriation for roads. He said that the main question to be kept in view was the effect on the tax rate.

He cited an array of figures to demonstrate how at least \$20,000 could be appropriated for the various branches of road work without increasing the tax rate over that of last year.

He said that the appropriations last year footed up \$47,800. This year the \$3,000 for road surveys, \$3,000 for removing obstructions from Newark Avenue, \$500 for the Montgomery Street bridge, \$500 for poor account, and \$500 for cobble-stone gutters were eliminated from the list, leaving \$7,500 at the command of the Committee.

He also stated that taking past years as a basis, the Committee might safely reckon on an increase in valuations of at least \$200,000,

which at the rate of \$2.50 would give \$5,000 additional tax receipts, making a total of \$12,500, which added to the appropriations of last year, would give the Committee \$20,000 to spend on roads without increasing taxes, which could be divided as follows: \$13,000 for stone road construction, \$5,000 for stone road repairs, and \$2,000 for dirt road repairs.

Mr. Rayner said he had given the matter of roads careful consideration.

He felt that the people respected the recommendations of the Committee from the fact that they believed that such recommendations were based on experience and judgment.

He believed that a liberal appropriation for roads would do much towards allaying the feeling of resentment in Glen Ridge.

He opposed bonding the town at the present time, and thought that greater satisfaction would result from a larger appropriation.

Mr. Halfpenny said that the statistics furnished by the gentleman from the Third Ward evidenced that he had carefully considered the matter.

He said the figures demonstrated that the Committee had \$27,000 at its disposal for road work.

He advised keeping each item distinct—so much for dirt-road repairs, so much for stone-road repairs,

and so much for stone-road construction.

He favored \$2,000 for the first,

\$5,000 for the second, and \$20,000 for the third. This increased expenditure would enable the Committee to build deeper roads.

Mr. Halfpenny referred to the Glen Ridge request last year for a four-inch road, which had turned out very unsatisfactory. In future he thought the Committee ought not to heed such requests.

A vote was taken on the amounts, resulting as follows: Stone-road construction, \$18,000; stone-road repairs, \$5,000; dirt-road repairs, \$2,000.

For sidewalk construction Mr. Halfpenny, Chairman of the Sidewalk Committee, said that there was an unexpended balance of \$500 in the hands of the Committee, and he thought \$2,500 was enough for the purpose next year, but the Committee finally decided to recommend \$3,000.

In the matter of maps and surveys, it was stated the account was overdrawn \$116.95.

Mr. Halfpenny said that some measure should be devised to prevent overdrawning that account. The Committee had no way of determining what such work was worth.

Mr. Gilbert said it was a hard matter to limit the cost of professional services.

Mr. Halfpenny replied that when there were three or more members in a Committee whose personal experience lead them to form a correct opinion of the value of certain kinds of professional service, the Committee cannot go far astray, but this Committee had no surveyor among its members.

Five hundred dollars was recommended for this appropriation.

The total recommendations were as follows:

Stone road construction..... \$18,000

Dirt road repairs..... 5,000

Sidewalks..... 8,000

Gas..... 9,000

Water..... 1,000

Police..... 4,000

Census..... 500

Catawarks..... 500

Public grounds..... 500

Maps and surveys..... 500

Total..... 42,500

Timely Advice.

Right word at the right season. I am

ready to clean your carpets with the

least possible inconvenience to you.

D. Douglas, Jr., No. 5-9 Park St., Mont-

clair, N. J.—Adv.

Spring is about us. Every fine day

will bring visitors from the city looking

for a summer residence. Investors will

begin looking around for building-sites.

Hopper is selling bananas at 25c per

dozen.—Adv.

\$8,000 TOO MUCH.

CHAIRMAN GILBERT ASSERTS THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS WERE EXCEEDED.

Members of the Committee Were Doubtful, but Mr. Gilbert Gives the Figures.

A few months ago an item appeared in THE CITIZEN to the effect that the Township Committee had expended more money this year than it was likely to receive, but the statement was promptly contradicted. On Monday night the Committee discussed a motion to transfer from the back taxes sufficient amounts to balance up accounts that were overdrawn. The Chairman, Mr. Gilbert, said that he favored Mr. Cockefair's idea of not spending back taxes until they had been paid in. Mr. Cockefair stoutly opposed all expenditures that were made in anticipation of the income from back taxes.

Mr. Gilbert asserted that the Committee had spent an excess of appropriations to the amount of nearly \$8,000, which was more than the receipts from back taxes would cover. The Chairman's statement was doubted, and Mr. Rayner said that he was positive that no sub-committee of which he was chairman had exceeded its appropriation, and he thought that in justice to the whole Committee the Chairman should furnish proof of his statement. Mr. Gilbert read from a list the amounts to which different accounts had been overdrawn as follows: Contingent account, \$4,186.40; maps and surveys, \$116.75; police, \$228.25; road repairs, \$65.31; road construction, \$967.77; dirt roads, \$1,153.24, and sidewalk grading, \$65.18.

In addition to the above the Chairman said there were a number of unpaid claims against the town.

Mr. Rayner expressed surprise at the condition of affairs. He said that there was no doubt but when money in excess of the appropriations had been spent it was done by resolution of the Committee.

The Berkeley School Litigation.

It is now about a year since the Township Committee entered into negotiations with the Lehigh Valley Railroad about a new bridge over the canal at Montgomery Street. The company has the material on the ground with which to carry on the work. The

Chancellor will give the litigants a hearing on the 18th or 19th of May. A Mr. Clifford, who has the largest claim, is represented by ex-Judge Tuthill, the Wightman Bros. by C. H. Halfpenny, and the workmen by E. A. Rayner, Gallagher, Richards & Dodd represent the School Trustees.

Abel Baker Married.

Abel Baker of No. 113 Linden Avenue, the well-known grocer, and Miss Alzina Taylor were united in marriage at the home of the bride's father at Clifton Park, N. Y., at noon on Wednesday.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. G. E. Stockwell of the Mechanicsville Church, and was witnessed only by the near relatives of the family. After a wedding breakfast the happy couple left on a trip to Philadelphia and Washington. Upon their return they will reside in this place.

Death of George B. Earl.

George B. Earl, a well-known and highly respected resident of this town, died on Wednesday morning at his residence on Ridgewood Avenue, after a brief illness from Bright's disease. Mr. Earl had been connected with the R. G. Dun Mercantile Agency for the past thirty years. He leaves a wife and two children. Funeral services were held at his late residence yesterday afternoon. Interment in Bloomfield Cemetery.

An Address by Mrs. Ellis.

Under the auspices of the Watsessing Women's Christian Temperance Union, Mrs. J. T. Ellis, State Secretary, will deliver an address in Bethel Presbyterian Church, corner Dodd Street and Midland Avenue, East Orange, next Wednesday evening, at eight o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Sturgis will sing. Admission free.

Why Not Work for It?

Field Day of the Uniformed Rank Knights of Pythias, would bring several thousand dollars into this town if it were held here. Bloomfield Division, should appoint a committee at once and canvass the town in order to find what the public sentiment is. It would bring visitors from all over the State and give the town a liberal advertising.

Injured by the Machinery.

Martin Graham of New Street, an employee in T. Oakes & Co.'s woolen mills, had his right arm injured in the machinery last Monday.

Confirmed by the Bishop.

Bishop Starkey was at Christ Church on Wednesday night and administered the rite of confirmation to a class numbering fifteen.

The Real Estate Agents Are Ready For Them.

Spring is about us. Every fine day will bring visitors from the city looking

for a summer residence. Investors will

begin looking around for building-sites.

Hopper is selling bananas at 25c per

dozen.—Adv.

Timely Advice.

Right word at the right season. I am

ready to clean your carpets with the

least possible inconvenience to you.

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